



# MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

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Governor

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Secretary

Anthony G. Brown  
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Robert M. Summers, Ph.D.  
Deputy Secretary

February 12, 2009

The Honorable Norman H. Conway, Chairman  
Members of the Appropriations Committee  
House Appropriations Committee  
House Office Building, Room 121  
6 Bladen Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Letter of Support, House Bill 154: Environment - Green Building Council

Dear Delegate Conway and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) supports House Bill 154: Environment - Green Building Council. Currently the Maryland Green Building Council's responsibilities are focused on implementing green building technologies at State facilities. The legislation would explicitly direct the Council to provide recommendations on expanding green building practices and technologies statewide.

The use of green building technologies provides significant environmental benefit. They promote energy efficiency, low impact design, responsible stormwater management, and the use of recyclable materials in building construction. It is important that the State have one entity responsible for assessing and promoting the use of green building technologies for both the public and private sectors. A comprehensive evaluation of these practices is needed. MDE is represented on the Council and welcomes the opportunity to lend its expertise and advice in fulfilling this expanded role of the Council.

Thank you for your consideration of the Department's position as you review House Bill 154. Please contact me or Lisa Nissley, Legislative Liaison, at 410-260-6301 if you would like to discuss any of these issues further.

Sincerely,

Shari T. Wilson  
Secretary

Cc: Steve Pattison, MDE Assistant Secretary  
Lisa Nissley, MDE Legislative Liaison

